What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of decreasing viral replication in cells, the method comprising decreasing levels of functional cellular protease in the cells.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein decreasing levels of functional cellular protease comprises decreasing cellular protease gene expression in the cells.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein decreasing cellular protease gene expression comprises exposing the cells to a compound which decreases cellular protease gene expression.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to the cellular protease gene.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein decreasing levels of functional cellular protease comprises exposing the cells to an inhibitor of the functional cellular protease.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the cellular protease is calpain.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein decreasing levels of functional calpain comprises exposing the cells to a calpain inhibitor.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the calpain inhibitor is E64D or Z-Leu-Leu-H.

9. A method of treating or preventing a viral infection in a subject, the method comprising administering to the subject an amount of a compound effective to decrease levels of functional cellular protease in cells of the subject.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound decreases levels of functional cellular protease by decreasing cellular protease gene expression.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein decreasing cellular protease gene expression comprises exposing the cells to a compound which decreases cellular protease gene expression.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide targeted to the cellular protease gene.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the compound is an inhibitor of the functional cellular protease.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein the cellular protease is calpain.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the compound is an inhibitor of the cellular protease.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the calpain inhibitor is E64d or Z-Leu-Leu-H.

17. The method of claim 9 wherein the viral infection is caused by a DNA virus.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the DNA virus is a human cytomegalovirus, a herpes simplex virus, or a varicellar zoster virus.